



**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

# **Certification of Waiver or Authorization**



Presented to: Parasail Operator's Symposium

**Eastern Service Center - Operations Support Group  
Air Traffic Organization**

# Our Vision

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- Our vision is to safely integrate Parasail Operators into the National Airspace System while doing no harm to any National Airspace System users.



# What We Do

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- We are a dedicated group of professionals from FAA Headquarters and all Service Areas charged with:
  - Issuing Certificate's of Authorization (COA) for Parasail Operations to fly in the National Airspace System (NAS).
  - Participating in the development of future policies and regulations.
  - Collaborating with other Agencies to ensure harmonization of Parasail operations.



# Code of Federal of Regulations

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## Title 14: Aeronautics and Space

### PART 101—MOORED BALLOONS, KITES, AMATEUR ROCKETS AND UNMANNED FREE BALLOONS

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- § 101.1 Applicability.
- (a) This part prescribes rules governing the operation in the United States, of the following:
  - (1) Except as provided for in §101.7, any balloon that is moored to the surface of the earth or an object thereon and that has a diameter of more than 6 feet or a gas capacity of more than 115 cubic feet.
  - (2) Except as provided for in §101.7, any kite that weighs more than 5 pounds and is intended to be flown at the end of a rope or cable.
  - (3) Any amateur rocket except aerial firework displays.
  - (4) Except as provided for in §101.7, any unmanned free balloon that—
    - (i) Carries a payload package that weighs more than four pounds and has a weight/size ratio of more than three ounces per square inch on any surface of the package, determined by dividing the total weight in ounces of the payload package by the area in square inches of its smallest surface;
    - (ii) Carries a payload package that weighs more than six pounds;
    - (iii) Carries a payload, of two or more packages, that weighs more than 12 pounds; or
    - (iv) Uses a rope or other device for suspension of the payload that requires an impact force of more than 50 pounds to separate the suspended payload from the balloon.
- (b) For the purposes of this part, a *gyroglider* attached to a vehicle on the surface of the earth is considered to be a kite.



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- § 101.3 Waivers.
- **No person may conduct operations that require a deviation from this part except under a certificate of waiver issued by the Administrator.**
- [Doc. No. 1580, 28 FR 6721, June 29, 1963]
- § 101.5 Operations in prohibited or restricted areas.
- **No person may operate a moored balloon, kite, amateur rocket, or unmanned free balloon in a prohibited or restricted area unless he has permission from the using or controlling agency, as appropriate.**
- [Doc. No. 1457, 29 FR 46, Jan. 3, 1964, as amended at 74 FR 38092, July 31, 2009]
- § 101.7 Hazardous operations.
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- **(a) No person may operate any moored balloon, kite, amateur rocket, or unmanned free balloon in a manner that creates a hazard to other persons, or their property.**
- **(b) No person operating any moored balloon, kite, amateur rocket, or unmanned free balloon may allow an object to be dropped therefrom, if such action creates a hazard to other persons or their property.**
- **(Sec. 6(c), Department of Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1655(c)))**
- [Doc. No. 12800, 39 FR 22252, June 21, 1974, as amended at 74 FR 38092, July 31, 2009]
- **Subpart B—Moored Balloons and Kites**



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- **§ 101.11 Applicability.**
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- **This subpart applies to the operation of moored balloons and kites. However, a person operating a moored balloon or kite within a restricted area must comply only with §101.19 and with additional limitations imposed by the using or controlling agency, as appropriate.**
- **§ 101.13 Operating limitations.**
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- **(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, no person may operate a moored balloon or kite—**
- **(1) Less than 500 feet from the base of any cloud;**
- **(2) More than 500 feet above the surface of the earth;**
- **(3) From an area where the ground visibility is less than three miles; or**
- **(4) Within five miles of the boundary of any airport.**
- **(b) Paragraph (a) of this section does not apply to the operation of a balloon or kite below the top of any structure and within 250 feet of it, if that shielded operation does not obscure any lighting on the structure.**



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- **101.15 Notice requirements.**
- **No person may operate an unshielded moored balloon or kite more than 150 feet above the surface of the earth unless, at least 24 hours before beginning the operation, he gives the following information to the FAA ATC facility that is nearest to the place of intended operation:**
  - **(a) The names and addresses of the owners and operators.**
  - **(b) The size of the balloon or the size and weight of the kite.**
  - **(c) The location of the operation.**
  - **(d) The height above the surface of the earth at which the balloon or kite is to be operated.**
  - **(e) The date, time, and duration of the operation.**
- **§ 101.17 Lighting and marking requirements.**
- **(a) No person may operate a moored balloon or kite, between sunset and sunrise unless the balloon or kite, and its mooring lines, are lighted so as to give a visual warning equal to that required for obstructions to air navigation in the FAA publication “Obstruction Marking and Lighting”.**
- **(b) No person may operate a moored balloon or kite between sunrise and sunset unless its mooring lines have colored pennants or streamers attached at not more than 50 foot intervals beginning at 150 feet above the surface of the earth and visible for at least one mile.**



# SPECIAL PROVISIONS

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- **These Special Provisions shall apply regardless of any statement contained in the application.**
- **The FAA Administrator, the Regional Headquarters Air Traffic Division, Flight Standards District Office or the Airport Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) representative designated to monitor a specific operation may cancel the Certificate of Waiver or Authorization at any time. The Certificate of Waiver or Authorization may be canceled when there is an abuse of its provisions or unforeseen safety factors develop. Failure to comply with the Certificate of Waiver or Authorization, including the Special Provisions is cause for cancellation.**
- **The Certificate of Waiver or Authorization and attached Special Provisions and FAA Form 7711-2 or copies thereof, shall be carried aboard the launch vessel during all parasail operations.**
- **All Persons directly involved with the parasail operations shall be briefed on Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) 101, Subpart A and B, the Certificate of Waiver or Authorization including the Special Provisions, and the operation of the parasail.**
- **Prior to operation, all parasail operators must attend an annual operator safety and standardization meeting sponsored by the FAA if available in their area. If an operator is unable to attend the scheduled annual meeting, the operator is responsible for contacting the Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) to coordinate an individual meeting.**



# SPECIAL PROVISIONS

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- **Parasail operations shall not be conducted when the ceiling is less than 1,000 feet Above Ground Level (AGL) and the ground visibility is less than 2 miles, winds above 20 mph and or gusts of 15 mph or greater. Weather information may be obtained from the Lockheed Martin Automated Flight Service Station (AFSS) at 877-487-6867, NOAA weather site with beach information or by recordable electronic means.**
- **Parasail operations shall not be conducted between sunset and sunrise, or during such time as a suspension of airport traffic or diversion of other aircraft will cause a hardship to scheduled air carrier operations.**
- **Parasail operations shall not be conducted closer than 500 feet to any aircraft and the parasail shall not be maneuvered in such a manner so as to force any aircraft toward the swim line or a populated beach. Parasail operators shall yield the right-of-way to all aircraft.**
- **The parasail and surrounding airspace will be under constant observation by the Captain and all crew members to ensure safety. The observers must be in a position to observe the operation and the airspace. If necessary, the safety observer will halt or restrict the parasail operations in order to comply with Special Provision #8.**
- **When proposed parasail operations are conducted within 5 miles of an Airport, the holder of the Certificate of Waiver or Authorization shall contact the Air Traffic Control Tower at least one week prior to conducting parasail operations, for the purpose of providing real-time notice of activities. This notice shall include the proposed area of operation, duration of activity, and altitude of parasail.**



# Information

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- **Web Site:**

<http://www.faa.gov/>

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